

Abstract of the Invention

An AM half-tone screening process having special utility with a flexographic printing process is described. Such printing processes typically include a desktop publishing unit, a raster image processor for forming half-tone separations, and an image sitter for

- 5 producing the half-tone separations. In accordance with the invention, the image area is divided into a multiplicity of groups of equally spaced dots. The combined value of the dots in a single group is set at a desired target film value but the individual dots vary in size for film values below a selected transition level. The minimum value of one of the dots can be determined by the operator of the system and, for example, may be greater than the size of the
10 anilox cells in the printing process so that emersion of the raised area into the cell is not possible. The remaining dots of the group decrease in size in proportion to the target film value at a faster rate than the first dot.